



February 6, 2009

To Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Kate Hampford Donahue, President of Hampford Research, Inc. a small specialty chemical manufacturer located in Stratford, CT.

I am writing to voice my opposition to several tax bills before you which would seriously damage Connecticut's economy and our ability to compete and succeed here. These proposals would substantially increase our business costs and make it much harder for us to continue doing business in Connecticut. Specifically, we are opposing:

**HB-6348, HB-6349, HB-6350, SB-807 and SB-815**

In particular, HB-6350 would negatively impact our firm because the cost of chemical processing equipment is extremely high. Losing our tax exemption would significantly affect our ability to invest in capital. As a small company, we have to watch our expenses very carefully and in this economic environment, any additional taxes will negatively affect our ability to compete globally. This is equally true of SB-815 and HVB-6348. As we have repositioned ourselves in the marketplace over the last two years we have accrued tax credits that will help us survive the current downturn. Losing those credits would cripple us going forward.

We understand the tremendous challenge facing Connecticut (and the nation) but we urge you to reject these proposals and work with the business community to encourage economic development and job creation in Connecticut. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kate Hampford Donahue  
President